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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/617,106	07/09/2003	Masaru Aiso	393032039100	2612
7590	10/17/2006			EXAMINER PENDLETON, BRIAN T
				ART UNIT 2615
				PAPER NUMBER
				DATE MAILED: 10/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/617,106	AISO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Brian T. Pendleton	2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 July 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 7/9/03 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ .
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki, US Patent 5,054,077 in view of Santos, US Patent Application Publication 2002/0136419. Suzuki discloses a fader device comprising a plurality of operators 31-33 that adjust the level of each channel in increasing or decreasing fashion, a plurality of motor driving circuits 44 for moving the faders, and a fader operation mode switching unit 54 for selecting between a single or group operation mode, said group operation mode causes other fader operators to be driven when one fader is operated. Thus Suzuki discloses a level adjustment apparatus having a level control section where any of the operators controls a control value of each of the other operators. Suzuki does not disclose a setting section that individually sets each of the operators to a forward or inverse operational direction and that the level control section controls the operators set to the same operational direction as a moved operator to move in the same direction or controls the operators set to the opposite operation direction to move in the opposite direction from the moved operator. Santos discloses a DJ mixer 7 with fader reverse switches 34 and 35. Inherently, the fader reverse switches set the operational direction of the faders (operators). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Suzuki by including the fader reverse switches taught by Santos and thereby

controlling a group of faders to move in forward or inverse direction according to the setting of the reverse switch for the purpose of implementing bulk control of the level adjustment for a group of channels while maintaining the ability to individually control the adjustment. Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7 are rejected.

Claims 2, 4, 6, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Santos as applied to claims 1, 3, 5, and 7 above, and further in view of Kohyama et al, US Patent 6,985,595. The combination of Suzuki and Santos does not disclose a display section that displays the operational directions of the operators. Kohyama et al teach a mixer device comprising a plurality of operators 330 and display elements 28. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the combination of Suzuki and Santos by including display elements, per the teachings of Kohyama, that display the operational direction of the faders for the purpose of indicating the status of the channels.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian T. Pendleton whose telephone number is (571) 272-7527. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on (571) 272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2615

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Brian T. Pendleton
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2615

btp

